

City of Cincinnati - Health Department

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'Cover the Uninsured Week' 2006 Provides Platform to Urge Nation's Leaders to Take Federal Action

Representatives from diverse communities to call on Congress; Citizens will demand federal action and help enroll eligible Americans in public programs at events held in DC and across the states

Washington, D.C. - The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and some of the most prominent organizations in the country announced plans for the fourth *Cover the Uninsured Week*, a nonpartisan, nationwide effort to urge U.S. leaders to make health coverage for Americans their top priority. *Cover the Uninsured Week* will be held May 1-7, 2006, with events anticipated in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Representatives from diverse communities will come to Washington, D.C., to relay the plight of the nearly 46 million Americans who lack health coverage, as well as to discuss ideas being tested in various states and communities to try to cover some of the millions without coverage.

"While community and state leaders are doing what they can to help those living without health insurance, this is a national problem that demands national solutions," said Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, M.D., M.B.A., president and CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. "With no comprehensive national solutions on the immediate horizon, all Americans - regardless of their insurance status - need to get involved and make their opinion count. Most Americans, whether insured or uninsured, are concerned about the rising costs of health care, empathize with the millions among us who have no coverage, and recognize that they too could one day find themselves without health insurance. We all need to add our voices to share our concern about this urgent issue."

According to the most recent figures available from the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly 46 million Americans - including more than 8 million children - have no health coverage. The Institute of Medicine estimates that nearly 50 people die each day because they are uninsured and cannot get the medical care they need.

Greater Cincinnati Cover the Uninsured Week 2006 is supported by over 60 local organizations. Activities for the week are listed on www.covercincy.org and include:

- **For uninsured people in our community:**
Saturday, May 6th -- get help applying for public health coverage, making decisions about Medicare Part D, or getting help with hospital bills. Friendly helpers will be located at 12 area Kroger Stores from 9am – 3pm on May 6th.
- **For employers:**
Tuesday, May 2nd -- Rx for Affordable Healthcare: Options for Your Employees.
This event is targeted to organizations that hire entry-level, lower wage, or part-time employees. For more details go to http://www.covercincy.org/event_rx.html.

Get more information by calling (513) 333-0005 or by visiting www.covercincy.org